

**But God Hath Chosen** (1 Corinthians 1:25-29)

*God Interrupts Our Uselessness*

**Proposition:** Every child of God can be used of God by understanding the three criteria set forth in these verses.

- I. The Flesh that is Rejected (Vs. 26)
  - A. The Ability of the Flesh (Vs. 26b)
  - B. The Admiration of the Flesh (Vs. 26c)
  - C. The Ancestry of the Flesh (Vs. 26d)
- II. The Flock that is Selected (Vs. 27-28)
  - A. He has Selected the Uneducated (Vs. 27a)
  - B. He has Selected the Unable (Vs. 27b)
  - C. He has Selected the Unimportant (Vs. 28a)
  - D. He has Selected the Unwanted (Vs. 28b)
  - E. He has Selected the Unnoticed (Vs. 28d)
- III. The Focus that is Directed (Vs. 29)
  - A. A Focus Away from our Selves (Vs. 29a)
  - B. A Focus Above on our Saviour (Vs. 29b)

But God Hath Chosen (1 Corinthians 1:25-29)

God interrupts our uselessness. A discouraged preacher came home with the announcement to his wife that he was

going to quit the ministry. She asked him why and he responded, "I just feel so used." In reply she said, "I don't see why you are upset about that. I have heard you say time and time again that you wanted to be used."

I'm sure we can all identify times when people have used us to get what they want but I'm equally sure that if you are here today and you know the Lord as

your Saviour then you do want to be used by God. But the problem is that you look at yourself and say, How could God use me? I'm not out going. I'm not gifted. I don't know a whole lot. I'm pretty much useless to God. Perfect! You are just who he is looking for. Because God takes our uselessness and turns it into usefulness. You see, Every child of God can be used by God by understanding the criteria for usefulness that God gives <sup>in passage</sup>

I. The Flesh that is Rejected (26) -

There are certain realities in the athletic world that I had to come to grips with in college. Some people are just, taller, faster,



stronger and more talented. No matter how hard you

A. The Ability of the Flesh - "Not many wise after the flesh" This speaks of intellectual ability. A High IQ. These that have great learning ability. God is saying you don't have to have a PhD from Harvard to be used of God. God is not saying we need not seek out education and be ignorant. One line that we ought to read the word <sup>③</sup>study grow in knowledge of God

B. The Admiration of the Flesh - The most mighty in Vs 26 talks about powerful or capable, strong. These are those that are admired in society. Those of power and strength. The warrior the athlete the corporate exec. the congressman or Senator. One often heard preachers say, if their particular person of power or capability would sell out to <sup>④</sup>

C. The Ancestry of the Flesh - The word noble here means well-born or of high rank. He is referring to those who by virtue of their ancestry have a certain status or position. Now if you wanted to be the King or Queen of England, you have to be from the right ancestry. But when it comes to usefulness to God, it doesn't matter if you <sup>⑤</sup>

II. The Flock that is Selected - If you are looking for a job, it is a good and helpful thing to find out what the employer is looking for. What is God looking for? Vs 26 "Brethren" calling = invitation <sup>⑥</sup> invited to work useable to God

1) ...how hard you work at it, I could never make up. And that's true in a lot of things, NASA only takes the smartest. NASCAR only takes the fastest. The Miss America Pageant only takes the prettiest. But not so with God! The fleshly qualifications that find acceptance with this world are rejected when it comes to the work of God!

2) One time this fellow said in his prayer, "Lord, I thank Thee that I am ignorant." Somebody was overheard to say, "He sure has a lot to be thankful for."

3) ...knowledge of God, but understand that the abilities that we possess do not qualify us for the usefulness of God.

4) ...would sell out to God, boy God could really use them. Maybe so. But that strength, ability or admirable status do not qualify that person for God's service.

5) ...if your family came over on the Mayflower or a slave ship or came out of the woods to greet them both. Ancestry doesn't qualify.

1) ...was uneducated. It was said that he murdered the English language when he preached. Someone who had heard him said he was the only man he had ever heard that could say the word Mesopotamia in two syllables. Yet, God took him and used him to shake two continents for the glory of God and the effect of his ministry is still felt today.

2) that read, "Aunt Fanny -- She Hath Done What She Could." Fanny Crosby was blind from six weeks of age because of a mistreatment by a man claiming to be a doctor. Yet God used her to write more than 9000 hymns such as: "Blessed Assurance; All The Way My Saviour Leads Me; I Am Thine O Lord; Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross; Praise Him, Praise Him; Rescue The Perishing; To God Be The Glory;" and "Tell Me The Story Of Jesus," to name a few. Although blind, she was the guest of six presidents and a personal friend to Grover Cleveland. Her 9000 hymns were to set to music by every popular American tunesmith of the nineteenth century and still blesses the Church of Jesus Christ in our day.

3) ...Abraham Lincoln - "God must love the common people, because He made so many of them."

4) ...great importance, but that just qualified you for God's use! When God called Gideon, he responded that his family is poor in Manasseh, and that he was the least in my father's house. Yet God used him to wrought a mighty victory!

5) ...minimized and discounted by the world around you, there is a God in heaven that does not call the qualified, he qualifies the called!



A. He has Selected the Uneducated - The word "foolish" is a word we use to get "Moron". God used morons to put to shame the worlds wisdom. Did you know that Amos (OT) was a country farmer w/o Educ but God used him as a mighty Prophet. Dr Moody was <sup>1</sup>uneducated.

B. He has Selected the Unmable - The word weak refers to "physically weak or handicapped". Those who physically are frail or infirmed. I am reminded of Fanny Crosby. On her grave in Bridgeport Connecticut was a marker that read <sup>2</sup>

C. He has Selected the Unimportant - The word "base" means of "unknown descent" is really the opposite of noble, common, Unimportant by the worlds standard. Abraham Lincoln <sup>3</sup>said "You may not be a person of influence or great importance."

D. He has Selected the Unwanted - "disparaged" = "contemptible, least esteemed". It means those that are unwanted in society. Those treated with contempt & scorn. Those that society tells will never amount to anything. Jeremiah <sup>4</sup>

E. He has Selected the Unnoticed - this refers to those that are completely overlooked. You want find their names in the Who's who or even as my pastor said the Who's not. Though you have been minimized and dis <sup>5</sup>

III The Focus that is Directed  
I heard a story the other day about a girl that scored a perfect score on the SAT then had the same result on the Calif College Entrance

roof. An anxious intercessor asks her what was the  
**A. A Focus Away from our Selves -**

"That No Flesh" You see this is the danger for every pastor preacher evangelist musician, S.S. teacher, deacon, bus worker, every Christian in this room that we would glory in our flesh. We are a lot like the woodpecker that I heard about. He was pecking away on a tree when it was struck by lightning. The tree was split from top to bottom. The woodpecker flew off and in a little while, came back leading nine other woodpeckers. He said, "There it is here, right over there."

**B. A Focus Above on our Saviors -**

You see when God takes a willing vessel and uses it mightily, it's not for the admiration of the vessel it is for the glory of God. He is the power behind our use, therefore he is to gain all the glory and honor and praise for how he uses us in this life. Probably one of the greatest composers of all time was Johann Sebastian Bach. He would often put the letters S-D-G on his compositions. No one knew what they meant until late in his life.

**TV. Close.** I am reminded of a poem I have heard time & again (3) —————→

God can use you! This calling is an imputation, will you respond.



- 1) ...what was the meaning of life. She answered, " I don't know. I wish I knew." The most learned of our generation is clueless about the meaning of life, yet the homeless man sitting in the rescue mission can open the bible and discern that the highest meaning in life is to bring glory to God!
- 2) ...late in his life. It was discovered that the letters stood for the Latin words soli deo gloria, which means, "to God alone be the glory." 2 Corinthians 4:7 ...we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.
- 3) "Twas battered and scared, and the auctioneer  
Thought it scarcely worth his while  
To waste much time on the old violin,  
But he held it up with a smile.  
"What am I bidden, good folks," he cried,  
"Who'll start bidding for me?  
A dollar, a dollar - now who'll make it two \_  
Two dollars, and who'll make it three?  
"Three dollars once, three dollars twice,  
Going for three". . . but no!  
From the room far back a gray-haired man  
Came forward and picked up the bow;  
Then wiping the dust from the old violin,  
And tightening up the strings,  
He played a melody, pure and sweet,  
As sweet as an angel sings.  
The music ceased and the auctioneer  
With a voice that was quiet and low,  
Said: "What am I bidden for the old violin?"  
And he held it up with the bow;  
"A thousand dollars - and who'll make it two?  
Two thousand - and who'll make it three?  
Three thousand once, three thousand twice  
And going - and gone," said he.  
The people cheered, but some of them cried,  
"We do not quite understand -  
What changed its worth?" The man replied:  
"The touch of the masters hand."